

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070339

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FOR SISCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TU

SUBJ: NAIM TALU DESIGNATED AS PRIME MINISTER

SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADANA ISTANBUL IZMIR ATHENS NICOSIA

NATO USCINCEUR USDOCOSOUTH CINCUSAFE DIA FROM ANKARA 14 APR 73

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA2865

E. O. 11652: NA/ A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TU

SUBJ: NAIM TALU DESIGNATED AS PRIME MINISTER

REF: ANKARA 2817

BEGIN SUMMARY. PRESIDENT DESIGNATED POLITICAL INDEPENDENT

NAIM TALU, COMMERCE MINISTER SINCE DECEMBER, 1971, AS  
PRIMIN. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE JUSTICE PARTY AND REPUBLICAN  
RELIANCE PARTY WILL BE IN A DUAL COALITION CABINET, WHOSE  
PRIME AIM WILL BE TO CARRY COUNTRY TO OCTOBER ELECTIONS  
AFTER PASSING CERTAIN REFORM AND OTHER ESSENTIAL LEGISLATION.  
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END SUMMARY.

1. IN AFTERNOON OF APRIL 12, PRESIDENT KORUTURK DESIGNATED PRES CONTINGENT SENATOR NAIM TALU, COMMERCE MINISTER IN MELEN AND SECOND ERIM CABINETS, TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. TALU, WHO IS OSTENSIBLY POLITICAL INDEPENDENT ( ALTHOUGH HE SHARES JUSTICE PARTY' S ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY AND WAS CERTAINLY THE CHOICE OF JP), IN EVENING BEGAN DISCUSSIONS WITH JP AND REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY ( RR) CHAIRMEN OVER A COALITION PROTOCOL. FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS, TALU TOLD PRESS THAT AGREEMENT HAD ALMOST BEEN REACHED ON A DUAL ( JP- RR) COALITION. HE REMARKED THAT HE DID NOT ENVISAGE ENTERING INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH EITHER THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY ( RPP) OR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ( DP). IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED THAT THREE MINISTERS WILL BE INDEPENDENT ( INTERIOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND JUSTICE MUST BE IN HANDS OF INDEPENDENTS DURING THREE- MONTH PRE- ELECTORAL PERIOD). OTHERWISE, MOST CABINET PORTFOLIOS, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, WILL GO TO MP' S. JP MAY HVE AS MANY AS FITEEN MINISTRIES.

2. FOLLOWING TALU' S DESIGNATION, THE SEC GEN OF THE PRESIDENCY ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL: ( A) PASS REFORM LEGISLATION; ( B) CHANGE ELECTION AND POLITICAL PARTIES LAWS; ( C) PASS LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PERMITTING STATE SECURITY COURTS; ( D) CELEBRATE 50 TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC; AND ( E) CONDUCT TIMELY GENERAL ELECTIONS ( E. E., ON OCTOBER 14).

3. TALU TOLD PRESS THAT HIS CABINET WOULD HAVE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ELECTION GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT CERTAIN REFORMS WOULD BE PASSED. HE THOUGHT THIS COULD BE DONE BY JUNE AT THE LATEST.

4. TALU HAS BEEN A STRONG FIGURE IN MELEN GOVERNMENT. COMMERCE MINISTRY IN TURKEY ORDINARILY IS A PRIME TARGET FOR ABUSE AND CRITICISM. TALU GAINED HIS SHARE OF THIS, BUT HE ALSO WON CONSIDERABLE RESPECT FROM BUSINESSMEN FOR CERTAIN OF HIS POLICIES. HE HAS BEEN A BANKER MOST OF HIS LIFE. BORN IN ISTANBUL IN 1919, HE GRADUATED FROM  
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ECONOMIC FACULTY OF ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY IN 1943. HE

WORKED FOR SUMERBANK AND THEN JOINED CENTRAL BANK IN 1946. HE BECAME DIRECTOR GENERAL IN 1967 AND SUBSEQUENTLY PRESIDENT OF BANK IN A1970. TALU WAS APPOINTED COMMERCE MINISTER IN SECOND ERIM CABINET IN DECEMBER, 1971, AND RETAINED HIS PORTFOLIO UNDER MENEN. HE WAS DESIGNATED A PRES CONTINGENT SENATOR IN JUNE, 1972. HE IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN, AND ONE GRANDCHILD. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

5. THANKS TO JP LEADER DEMIREL' S WARM BLESSING, TALU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN WINNING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR HIS GOVERNMENT AND PROPOSED POLICIES. THE RPP, HOWEVER, HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO ADOPT A HARD LINE OPPOSITION POLICY. THE RPP IN THE PAST HAS BEEN OPPOSED TO TALU ON BOTH PERSONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS. IN OCTOBER OF 1972 THE PARTY LAUNCHED A CENSURE MOTION AGAINST TALU ABOUT HIS AGRICULTURAL PRICE POLICY. DP SUPPORTED CENSURE MOTION AND TARGEED IT AGAINST GOVERNMENT. PRIME MINISTER MELEN PICKED UP GAUNTLET, BUT PARLIAMENT FINALLY VOTED AGAINST EVEN INSCRIBING THE CENSURE MOTION ON AGENDA. WITHIN A FORTNIGHT, THE RPP UNILATERALLY WITHDREW ITS SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: PRSSIBLY THE MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF TALU' S DESIGNATION IS THAT JP LEADER DEMIREL' S CONTROLLING HAND IS SHOWING SO CONSPICUOUSLY. IN REMARKS HE MADE TO THE PRESS AFTER SEEING TALU, DEMIREL SPOKE CONFIDENTLY ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE TIME TABLE THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD FOLLOW. ONE JOURNALIST WAS UNKIND ENOUGH TO ASK TALU WHETHER HE WAS GOING TO HAVE SOME SAY IN THE CHOICE OF CABINET MINISTERS. TALU IS NOT, HOWEVER, A WEAK PERSONALITY, AND SPARKS MAY OCCASIONALLY FLY IN HIS FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEMIREL. ( SEE SEPTTEL ON DEMIREL- AMBASSADOR TALK IN WHICH DEMIREL EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION OVER TALU APPOINTMENT, KORUTURK ELECTION TO PRESIDENT, AND ALL RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.)  
HANDLEY UNQUOTE ROGERS

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